

TACOM civilian receives Defense of Freedom Medal



Jennifer Scales , Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Donald McClung (right), a Tank, Automotive and Armaments Command logistics assistant representative, assigned to Fort Stewart, was presented the Secretary of Defense Medal for the Defense of Freedom at Marne Garden, Sept. 20.

Established by Congress in 2001, the medal acknowledges civilian employees who are killed or wounded in the line of duty. It also symbolizes the fidelity and essential service of the civilian workforce who are an integral part of the Department of Defense and who contribute to the preservation of national security.

Presenting the award was Col. Johnny Johnston, commander, 406th Army Field Support Brigade from Fort Bragg. “Heroes are not just people you read about in the newspaper,” began Col. Johnston. “They are brave civilian men and women who put their life on the line every day.”

Colonel Johnston expressed a simple message to McClung. “You have joined a special brotherhood. Though this is not the kind of medal that I usually like to hand out, thanks for everything you do and will continue to do.”

Suicide Prevention Month: one falls, we all fall

Sgt. Robert E. Schaffner Jr.
The Frontline Staff

Each and every person is duty-bound and morally obligated to prevent suicide. But all of the creeds in the Army will not prevent suicide if all members of the Army Family do not educate themselves to accept suicide prevention as part of the warrior ethos.

Suicide Prevention month began with the "You Are Not Alone" theme and kicked off with a variety of suicide prevention month activities that have since followed, said Alfrieda Adams, Suicide Prevention Program Manager. Activities will consist of a variety of integrated and synchronized agency activities that will target risk areas associated with suicidal behavior. The focus of activities will promote awareness, prevention, intervention, resiliency and spiritual well-being.

Some of the risk factors to be aware of and that can assist in determining who may be at risk, include depression, alcohol abuse, hopelessness, becoming withdrawn, relationship issues or loss of a relationship, dangerous or risky behavior such as excessive speeding or fighting, said Navy Capt. Philip McRae, Chief Department of Behavioral Medicine, Winn Army Community Hospital.

If you are still unsure, there is help to determine the various risks associated with suicide.

See SUICIDE

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From the Senior Commander

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Phillips

3rd ID Deputy Commanding General-Rear

We buried my dad Saturday.

He was a World War II veteran and a member of that generation that saw its fathers return victorious from war in 1918, then humbled in the Depression. This generation themselves returned victorious from war in 1945 to remake America.

The country they left after Pearl Harbor was a world power in no small part because it was the only western power to escape the gutting of WW I – entire economies and populations were destroyed like a forest charcoaled by fire.

It's really hard to imagine that now, you know? But it did happen. These people – our parents and grandparents – really contemplated the destruction of the world as they knew it, by enemies entirely up to the task of that kind of destruction. After WW II, the allies were, if anything, even more exhausted (with the exception of the Soviet

Union); and America was by contrast utterly ascendant.

These young men and women came home, 16 million of them plus the tens of millions who worked in the factories and offices here, and they did revolutionary things.

Many went to college. Before the war, few Americans went to college – it was for the elite. The GI Bill of 1944 changed that. After the war, my dad went to the University of Maine on the bill. Virtually any veteran could go to college, and millions did. They graduated and built an economy unlike any in history.

That's perhaps the real story of the WW II generation: they came home and transformed America.

So, this is not all about my old man, much as he was the best man I ever knew. This is about the people in our lives. I loved my dad and made damn sure he



knew it – I told him. We talked a lot and I video-recorded him discussing his youth. I told him not long ago that sometimes when I was home, I was uncomfortable because I was “no longer in charge,” being in my folks' house. He said he understood; he wouldn't misinterpret my occasional tenseness as anything other than an adjustment that

was entirely my deal.

We communicated. And when he died, there was no tension, no hatchet yet to be buried, no misunderstanding, no guilt, no doubt.

What's the point? In our lives, what really matters is people. Sure, I love stuff. Love my car, my old house in DC, my Strat, the motorcycle I may buy, my Mac, and so forth.

But what really matters is the people: I

didn't weep when my 1983 Ford Bronco, which I'd ordered from AAFES in Nurnberg and driven for 17 years, finally wore out.

The obvious conclusion is to lecture you, dear reader, on the importance of ensuring your aging parents know how you feel about them – above and beyond the petty arguments and resentments and grudges and irritations. That certainly would be a good idea – take it from someone who saw his idolized father lowered into the Connecticut soil not one week ago. At that point, it's too late to clear the air.

But that's not what I'm really driving at. We have very important, wonderful people all around us – right here. And, given these deployments and the tensions, many of us are going through a tough time. So, whether you look to the left and right and see your spouse, your squad, your buddy, your kids, or some combination . . .

These are people who matter.

But they may not know that if you don't commit an act of communication.

Reintegration

ACS preps couples for post-deployment

Randy Murray

Fort Stewart Public Affairs

“It's almost like you've been divorced for a while, and you're having to learn how to live together all over again,” explained Linda Moseley, mobilization/deployment manager with Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield's Army Community Service. “It takes time to re-connect with that intimacy you had before you or your spouse was deployed. You've both changed over the last 12 months.”

“Change” is a word used often by ACS personnel during an extensive reintegration class called “Preparing to be together,” which helps prepare Soldiers and spouses for post-deployment. Stewart-Hunter Soldiers and their spouses can't just say, “My spouse is back; now we can be a Family again,” said Moseley, who grew up as an “Army brat,” served as an Army intelligence officer and is now as an Army spouse. She said it takes time to feel “normal” again after re-deployment. It also takes communication, courage and commitment to adjust to the changes.

Moseley said some of the changes are in everyday life as well as personal changes, financial changes and sometimes physical changes. She noted that some Soldiers return with physical or mental disabilities, including Traumatic Brain Injury or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, serious changes that require serious adjustment, both for the Soldier and spouse.

Major General Tony Cucolo, 3rd Infantry Division commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, 3rd ID command sergeant major, reflect on the importance of understanding these changes at the beginning of the DVD and the online link “Preparing to be together” on the

Team Stewart Web site. The Marne leaders emphasize that while down range, Soldiers only have to stay focused on one thing – the mission. On the home-front, however, spouses have to deal with a multitude of things – usually alone or as a single parent.

Moseley said that even though Soldiers and spouses anticipate re-uniting as couples and as Families, they need to prepare for being together. Both Soldier and spouse need to have realistic expectations, she said, noting that if you had marital problems before your spouse deployed, you'll probably marital problems when he or she returns. Moseley said communication is vital to re-starting your relationship, along with a commitment to each other and a willingness to adjust to changes, to include restoring co-parenting.

She said the most common problems Stewart-Hunter couples have following re-deployment are financial issues. While the spouse was deployed, that additional tax-free combat pay was helpful, but quite often, this additional pay is taken for granted as being part of the Soldier's regular monthly pay. Following re-deployment and the end of that special pay, many Families find themselves in a financial bind, and these financial problems can lend themselves to marital problems, Moseley said. For this reason, dealing with financial issues is a big part of ACS' reintegration training, she added.

Beth Curran, ACS financial readiness program manager, joined Evie Rodriguez and Rich Johnson, both ACS mobilization/deployment specialists during their presentation of “Preparing to be together” at a Family Readiness Group meeting for 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry spouses, conducted at Club Stewart's Patriot Room, Sept. 14.



Randy Murray

Evie Rodriguez and Rich Johnson, mobilization/deployment specialists with Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield's Army Community Service, pause to respond to a question as they begin “Preparing to be together,” an extensive Family support program provided by ACS that helps prepare couples for post-deployment.

“It shouldn't be much more than 30 days,” said Christina Lindner, FRG advisor for 3/7th Cav. as she opened the group's last meeting prior to their Soldiers' return.

A room filled with spouses and small children cheered and applauded as Lindner discussed plans for putting together “goodie” bags for single Soldiers. Following additional information about return flights given by the rear detachment commander, Rodriguez began her program, occasionally pausing to answer questions or in some other way try to involve her audience. About half way through the 29 slides used during Rodriguez' presentation, Curran talked about financial issues and ACS resources available to help Stewart-Hunter Families resolve financial problems.

Rodriguez, who is also an Army spouse of a deployed husband, said

information from two books, “Souls Under Siege,” by Bridget C. Cantrell, and “Down Range to Iraq and Back,” by Bridget C. Cantrell and Chuck Dean, is incorporated into the ACS program for reintegration.

“Souls Under Siege” talks about multiple deployments and how Soldiers are stretched thin,” Rodriguez explained. “It stresses that warriors on their third and fourth deployment have greater rates of mental health problems than those that do only one or two deployments. ‘Down Range to Iraq and Back’ talks about the troops coming home and the experiences and challenges they face with reintegration.”

Soldiers or Family Members with question about post-deployment issues should call Moseley at 912-767-4047. To watch “Preparing to be together” online, go to www.stewart.army.mil/DMWR/lacs/default.asp.

SUICIDE

—from Page 1A

The Installation has a Risk Reduction Team that is available to conduct risk inventories within units, in efforts to identify risk areas and develop action-plans to reduce risk factors, said Alfrieda Adams, Suicide Prevention Program Manager.

For many, there is the misconception that Behavioral Health will fix everything with a pill.

“A pill is only a tool; a pill is not going to fix (the problem),” said Capt. McRae “Our behavioral health department would not have doubled in size with staff members and all the different interventions, if the pill was the cure.” When you put the medication in combination with all of the other interventions and therapies, depending on symptoms presented, that is where we get the best effect.

The Army has been changing with the times and has invested millions of dollars in modern technology to meet the needs of behavioral health treatment.

For Soldiers who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury, Winn Army Community Hospital is just one of two military treatment facilities that offer the Raydon Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer for cognitive deficit assessment and treatment at the Winn Warrior Restoration Center.

“With Raydon, we have the capability to actually go back and recreate the actual streets and people on the streets that a Soldier experienced while in combat,” said Capt. Jessica Parker, chief of the Winn

Warrior Restoration Center. “In some cases we have an entire team that was in Iraq together and come in with the Soldier who is seeking help, which provides an even more realistic re-creation of the situation.”

For years there was a stigma in the military that if those who need behavioral health help are weak. That stigma was, and is, wrong, said Capt. McRae. He said that asking for help is a sign of strength; being weak is not supporting those who need help.

When troops deploy as many times as they have since 2003, even the best adjusted, most resilient person may have some difficulties, said Capt. McRae. It is up to each one of us to take care of each other and help each other in times of trouble.

If you suspect someone is at risk of suicide, there are some simple but critical steps that may save someone's life.

Adams urges everyone to follow the Army's “ACE” card which provides critical suicide intervention information. ASK your buddy. Have the courage to ask the question, but stay calm. Ask the question directly, are you thinking of killing yourself? CARE for your buddy. Remove any means that could be used for self-injury. Calmly control the situation; do not use force. Actively listen to produce relief. Finally, ESCORT your buddy and NEVER leave your buddy alone. Escort to the chain of command, a chaplain, a behavioral health professional, or a primary care provider.

For more local information on suicide prevention and intervention

Locally, you can call for other urgent mental health concerns; specialists are available during normal duty hours, Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30p.m. **Fort Stewart Behavioral Health Clinic**, 1083 Worcester Ave., building 9242: 912-767-1654/912 767-1647; **Army Substance Abuse Program**: 912-767-8667; **Fort Stewart Family Life Chaplains**: 912-767-1814; **Military and Family Life Consultants**: 912-432-8980; **Family Support Issues/Family Readiness Center**: 912- 767-5058; **Hunter Army Airfield Tuttle Army Health Clinic**, 230 Duncan Dr., building 1440: 912- 315-4240/6125. During non-duty hours: **Winn Army Community Emergency Room**, 1061 Harmon Ave: 911.

On-Call Chaplain: Contact the Division Operations Center (24/7) at 912-767-8667 to request chaplain assistance for yourself or for someone you believe is depressed and in danger of harming themselves.

Additional suicide prevention/intervention resources can be found at the Army G-1 Suicide Prevention Web site (www.armyg1.army.mil/hR/suicide) and the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Web site (<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/dhpm/Readiness/suicide.aspx>).

The remainder of the classes available for the month of September is as follows:

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER:

Sept. 27, 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 2-3 p.m. Fort Stewart, ASAP Administrative, building 201. Sept. 27, 9-10 a.m. and 1-2 p.m. Hunter, ASAP Building.

CIVILIAN YOUR ARE NOT ALONE!! BROWN BAG LUNCH

Sept. 29, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Fort Stewart, ASAP Administrative, building 201.

ACE INTERVENTION

Sept. 28, 12:30-4:30 p.m., Hunter, building 1286.

ACS FORT STEWART SPM RELATED CLASSES:

Sept. 28 - Keys to Managing Stress, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

ACS HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD SPM RELATED CLASSES:

Sept. 27 - Keys to Managing Stress, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Sept. 29 - Living on a Plan: How to Create a Budget that Works, 9-11 a.m.

Marne veterans reunite for 91st time



Current and former 3rd ID Soldiers gathered together in Crystal City, Va., for the 91st Annual Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Reunion, Sept. 15-18.

Sgt. Patience Okhuofu
3rd Sustainment Bde., 3rd ID Public Affairs

Veterans came from across the United States of America to the 91st Annual Reunion of the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Crystal City, Va., Sept. 15-19.

General Peter W. Chiarelli, Army Vice Chief of Staff, was the guest speaker at the Presidential Dinner, Sept. 15. In his speech, Gen. Chiarelli urged veterans to tell their stories, which will be recorded as part of the Society's oral history project.

"It is important to preserve history," he said. "History chronicles the decisions and actions of the individuals involved. It serves to better understand how to influence future outcomes."

He went further to inform the veterans that the new generation of Soldiers are routinely applying the tactic, technique and procedures that were developed by the analysis of previous wars.

"The Dog Face Soldiers who fought in World War II inspired those who fought in Korea, who then inspired those who fought in Vietnam and so on," Gen. Chiarelli said. "Each generation inspires the next."

He then commended the outstanding job of the Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division in Iraq.

General Chiarelli also read a letter from Maj. Gen. Lloyd Ramsey, the only known living 3rd ID Battalion Commander from the World War II-era, extending his greetings to his comrades and expressing his regret for not being able to attend the reunion. He said he wanted to personally say thank you to the man who saved his life 66 years ago, Medal of Honor recipient, Robert D. Maxwell. (See story, page 1A)

David W. Mills, a Korean War veteran who was listed as Missing in Action then Killed in Action and later as a Prisoner of War, received the Purple Heart after 53 years from Gen. Chiarelli at the Presidential Dinner.

"I like to say this is the oldest Purple Heart

award I have ever seen, but I recently received another request so I do not want you think that you are the only one that has being forgotten," Gen. Chiarelli said to a smiling Mills.

A memorial ceremony was held at the second most sacred place in Arlington Cemetery - the Memorial Amphitheatre, Sept. 16. Amongst those present was Brig. Gen. Jeffrey E. Phillips, 3rd ID deputy commanding general-rear; Command Sgt. Major Jeffrey Ashmen, 3rd ID command sergeant major-rear; Jean-Marie Fritsch, the Mayor of Ammerschwihir, France, whose village was liberated by the 3rd ID Soldiers in WWII; and representatives from Korea, Germany and Canada.

The dedication of Capt. Monika Stoy (Ret.), President of Out Post Europe, Society of the 3rd Infantry Division, to preserving the history of the 3rd ID has led to the placing of 63 plaques in France, Germany and Austria in honor of 3rd ID Soldiers. She talked about the special bond between the 3rd ID and Arlington National Cemetery, saying that the 3rd ID is the only division with a monument on the cemetery grounds.

She also said that Arlington Cemetery is also the resting place for some of the great Soldiers of the 3rd ID, including Gen. Lucian K. Truscott, who commanded the 3rd ID, VI Corps, U.S. Fifteenth Army and U.S. Fifth Army during World War II.; Gen. William Rosson; Audie Murphy, Medal of Honor recipient and the most decorated Soldier of WWII; Jim Evans, who served as Commanding Officer of Company A, 5th RCT during the defense of Outpost Harry during the Korean War, in 1953; and Mark Alexander, Commander 38th Infantry Regiment.

"For 93 years, our Division has fatefully served, continues to serve and will always serve our country as the Rock of the Marne," said Stoy.

During the memorial ceremony, the French Legion of Honor Medal was presented by Consul General Schaffhauser to Medal of Honor Recipient, Master Sgt. (Ret.) Wilburn Ross, Dr. Charles Phalen and Norman Myhra. Myhra passed away a few months after his award was submitted, and his widow was presented his award.

"It is an honor to be with you as the awards are being bestowed upon these great men," said Brig. Gen. Phillips. "When an award is given to a single person, it really bespeaks the accomplishment, the contribution and the continuity of the team, of the comrades."

Brigadier General Phillips, who recently lost his father, a veteran of World War II, addressed a question that someone asked him earlier in the day regarding the future of the division.

"We do not anticipate another deployment for this division for up to two years," he said. "This will give the Families enough time to get reacquainted, and (give) Soldiers the time to train again."

After the awards ceremony, the group moved to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for a wreath laying ceremony, then proceeded to the 3rd ID monument to lay wreaths in honor of fallen Dog Face Soldiers. Bugler Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Albert J. Madden, 92, traveled from Massachusetts to pay his respects, and played his rendition of Taps to end the event.

A wreath-laying ceremony was held at



Photos by Sgt. Patience Okhuofu

General Peter Chiarelli, Army Vice Chief of Staff, pins the Purple Heart on 3rd ID veteran David W. Mills, 53 years after he was listed as Missing in Action then Killed in Action and later as a Prisoner of War, at the 91st Annual Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Reunion at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City, Va., Sept. 15.



Medal of Honor recipient Wilburn K. Ross, was welcomed at the airport by Capt. (Ret.) Monika Stoy, Sgt. Cameron Strickland and Master Sgt. Kieron Vernon. On Oct. 30, 1944, as a private in Company G, 350th Infantry Regiment, 3rd ID, Ross manned a machinegun near St. Jacques, France, through repeated German assaults, holding off the enemy even after his supporting riflemen had run out of ammunition. For his actions during the battle, he was awarded the Medal of Honor on April 14, 1945.

the Korean War Monument, and the veterans of the Korean War were presented medals of appreciation by Dr. Baesulk Lee, who was an interpreter for the 3rd ID during the Korean War.

"[The 3rd ID] is helping to build and secure Iraq and Afghanistan, as you did for Korea 60 years ago," Lee said. "American Veterans and Soldiers are defenders of Freedom, savers of humanity and keepers of world peace."

During the 15th Infantry Regimental Dinner, Sept. 18, the Army Chorus entertained the crowd. A video presentation by Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, 3rd ID and Task Force Marne commander, was shown. In the video, Maj. Gen. Cucolo took the viewers a tour of the Division headquarters in Iraq. Veterans saw in the video reflections

of the wars they fought all through the base.

"I hope, with this video, we have left you with a high level of confidence that we will never forget all that you have done for the nation and for this Division," said Maj. Gen. Cucolo. "We will honor your legacy."

Lieutenant Colonel Tim Stoy, 3rd ID, who was one of the organizers for the reunion, relayed his concerns about the growth of the Society.

"We have a great problem that the WWII and the Korean War veterans are beginning to fade away and veterans of the Cold War and the Iraqi War are not showing much of an interest (in joining the Society of the 3rd ID)," said Lt. Col. Stoy. "Our goal is to get more of these involved to keep the Society alive."



Sergeant First Class (Ret.) Albert J. Madden, 92, a 3rd ID veteran, plays Taps at the wreath ceremony at the 3rd ID Monument at Arlington National Cemetery as part of the Society of the 3rd ID Reunion, Sept. 16.

REUNION

One of the Soldiers saved that day was Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Lloyd B. Ramsey. When Maj. Gen. Ramsey, now 92, heard that Cpl. Maxwell was attending the 91st Annual Reunion of the 3rd Infantry Division Historical Society, he said he was not going to miss the opportunity to personally thank the man who saved his life.

Major General Ramsey recovered from the injuries sustained the night of Sept. 7, and was sent back to the regiment, earning five Purple Hearts before helping lead the 3rd ID into Austria, where it liberated Salzburg and captured Adolf Hitler's retreat at Berchtesgaden.

But for Cpl. Maxwell, that blast ended his military career. He was sent back to the U.S. where he enrolled in Eugene Vocational school in Oregon. He worked as an auto mechanic for nine years, and later became a high school auto mechanic teacher for 32 years.

Unfortunately, ill health prevented Maj. Gen. Ramsey from attending the Society of the 3rd ID 91st reunion in Crystal City, Va., Sept. 15-19, so the host of the event, Capt. (Ret.) Monika Stoy, took it upon herself to set up a meeting between the veterans who had not seen each other since that day, 66 years ago.

"I've invited (Cpl.) Maxwell, to several Society of 3rd Infantry Division events, but he had never been able to make it," she said. "This year, he told me he would be able to attend the reunion. I informed Maj. Gen. Ramsey that Medal of Honor winner Maxwell would be attending, and he said 'Robert D. Maxwell?' When I asked him if he knew Maxwell, he said yes, he saved my life. I knew then that I had to do everything I could to make sure they met."

At 5 a.m., Sept. 18, Cpl. Maxwell boarded a van for a four-hour ride from Arlington, Va. to the Brandon Oaks retirement community in Roanoke, Va., for the meeting, Sept. 18. Also in the van were Jean - Marie Fritsch, the Mayor of Ammerschwihir, France, and his wife, Françoise; Dr. Heinz Schaden, Mayor of Salzburg, Austria; John Miller; Capt. Stoy; Sgt. Stephen Leglieter and Sgt. Cameron Strickland of the 3rd ID, and Medal of Honor recipient Wilburn K. Ross (see sidebar for more).

"Bob, I'd like to say thank you a million times for all you did," Maj. Gen. Ramsey said when he was reunited with Cpl. Maxwell. "I was the battalion commander, and you saved my life, and I was able to continue to command the battalion. You did a lot of good work for us, and I appreciate all you did

for me and the United States Army and the United States of America. You are a true Soldier."

"There was no other alternative," Cpl. Maxwell said humbly.

Major General Ramsey also thanked the French people, represented by Mayor Frisch, for their hospitality and kindness during the war. Mayor Frisch presented a bottle of wine from his village winery to Maj. Gen. Ramsey, to "facilitate his quick recovery" and thanked him for what the 3rd ID did in their village during World War II.

Dr. Schaden, Mayor of Salzburg, also conveyed his gratitude to Maj. Gen. Ramsey "... for liberating the city of Salzburg in May of 1945, and for managing to do so without destroying the city, thereby maintaining the city's looks that it inherited more than 2,000 years ago."

"Thank you for liberating us and terminating the Nazi regime," Schaden continued.

Despite his heroics, Cpl. Maxwell remains humble about his actions in 1944.

"I haven't let it control my life," he said. "I believe that life is meant to be lived from day to day, and one needs not to dwell on the past."



Signal Soldier leads his team, embraces heritage

Elvia Kelly
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Leading his team with an opened-mind is a key element to successful communication for Capt. Marcos Torres, Jr., rear detachment commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. However, the journey of becoming a leader for his Soldiers was not without hurdles.

In 2005, Capt. Torres earned his commission as second lieutenant after years of exhaustive and draining hard work. He was a cadet in the ROTC program at Hampton University, Va., and a brother in the Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. Before earning his commission and walking across the graduation stage, the young cadet knew all his hard work paid off.

“The last year before graduation was very tough,” said Capt. Torres. “When it was finally over, a tear came out.”

Captain Torres went to Officer Basic Course and Captain's Career Course, signal branch specific, at Fort Gordon, Ga. He was sent to his first duty station at Fort Hood, Texas, with 3rd Signal Brigade. He then deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2006-2007. After returning home from serving his country, he was stationed at Fort Stewart with 4th IBCT.

Captain Torres contributes his achievements to his Hispanic heritage. Originally from the Bronx, N.Y., Capt. Torres was born to a Puerto Rican mother and Ecuadorian father.

“I always try to understand my culture and heritage,” said Capt. Torres. “Especially with my Puerto Rican and Ecuadorian background and what they consist of.”

Captain Torres visited Puerto Rico a few times to visit his mother and Family. He visited Ecuador with his father when he was younger.

“I noticed how much Puerto Rico changed in regards to industrialization and advancements,” he said. “Puerto Rico is growing. I also visited ‘El Morro,’ it’s where the Spanish American War was fought in Old San Juan and ‘El Yunque,’ it’s the highest peak.”

El Morro and El Yunque are national landmarks in Puerto Rico. The preserved monument and mountainous peak are historical sites, attracting countless visitors each year.

An element that Capt. Torres appreciates in his heritage is food. He finds enjoyment in delicious, mouthwatering Latin cooking.

“If someone says they’re cooking beans and rice, I don’t care of the kind of meat, I’m there,” he said. “If someone says they’re cooking beans and rice with ‘pernil,’ I’m there even faster.”

Pernil is a traditional delicacy in the Puerto Rican culture. It is roasted pork shoulder with seasoning that includes oregano, garlic and pepper. When pernil is enjoyed with rice and beans, the taste is truly gratifying to Capt. Torres. Captain Torres also enjoys dancing a little bit of merengue, a traditional Latin dance swaying to fast-beat music.

Because of his heritage, Capt. Torres says his background made him the man and Soldier he is today. His uncle, who is also a Soldier, influenced him to have an opened-mind with his team.

“My uncle, who is a first sergeant in the Army Reserve, influenced me to be a good officer,” he said. “He told me not to be stubborn and learn to listen to [my] Soldiers and (Noncommissioned Officers).”



Courtesy photo

Captain Marcos Torres (second from left, back row), HHC, 4th IBCT, 3rd ID, poses with his Family Members, Luis Torres, Keilah Malavet, April Torres, Gwendolyn Gonzales, Ana Torres and Israel Malavet during a visit to Orlando, Fla.

Captain Torres’ uncle, 1st Sgt. Henry Torres, is with the 19th Transportation Company, U.S. Army Reserve, out of Orlando, Fla.

“As his uncle, since he was little, he was my push-up buddy. He always tried to beat me,” said 1st Sgt. Torres. “He never (gives) up on anything, that’s his best asset. He is a positive figure, and we have a big Family. He’s done a lot for himself. He gave me his first coin after he was commissioned. He has my salute.”

Specialist Latoya Graham met Capt. Torres when they were stationed at Fort Hood. Now, they are both stationed at Fort Stewart and he serves as her commander.

“He’s a good role model,” said Spc. Latoya Graham of HHC, 4th IBCT. “He is very understanding, always helps out a Soldier in any way he can. It felt good to see a familiar face. He kept me on track like [he did] at Fort Hood.”

You may see Capt. Torres at the Hispanic Heritage festivities, where he looks forward to seeing home-cooked foods of Latin America. Hispanic Heritage month celebrates the anniversary of independence for Latino countries like Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Chile, and Nicaragua. September marks a cornerstone for many Latin countries, in which they



Elvia Kelly

Captain Marcos Torres (center, front row), HHC, 4th IBCT rear detachment commander, stands outside his battalion headquarters with some of his Soldiers, Sept. 20. Captain Torres, who is of Puerto Rican and Ecuadorian decent, credits his achievements to his Hispanic background.


now celebrate their independence day.

“Some people see it as a time of celebration,” said Capt. Torres. “I see it as a time of appreciation.”

Marne Voices Speak Out


September is Hispanic Heritage Month. What public Hispanic figure inspires you?

“J. Lo (Jennifer Lopez) because she does so many things and is very well-rounded. She has a positive outlook on things.”



Bobbie Leggins
Children’s Programmer

“Cesar Chavez because he showed that migrant workers were more than fancy slave laborers. He helped them achieve rights and gave them an honest pay.”



Jon King
PX Manager

“Gloria Estefan. I just love her. Her family came from Cuba. She’s a rag-to-riches story.”




Carla Hagberg
Army Spouse




“Carlos Vela because he plays for premier league in England.”

Pvt. Tracie Lutz
HHC, 4th IBCT



“George Lopez because he’s hilarious.”

Pfc. Patrick Lindstrom
HHC, 4th IBCT



“Ponce de Leon because he was looking for the fountain of youth.”

Edie Ramsey
FMWR

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Write a letter to the editor!

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3rd ID staff writer — Spc. Michael Adams
1st HBCT NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Jennifer Menger
1st HBCT staff writer — Spc. Jared Eastman
2nd HBCT staff writer — Spc. Dustin Gautney
2nd HBCT staff writer — Pfc. Crystal Bradley
3rd HBCT NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Natalie Hedrick
3rd HBCT staff writer — Spc. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT staff writer — Pfc. Erik Anderson
3rd Sust. Bde. NCOIC — Sgt. 1st Class Rhonda Lawson
3rd Sust. Bde. staff writer — Sgt. Gaelen Lowers
3rd Sust. Bde. staff writer — Sgt. Patience Okhuofu
4th IBCT NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Tanya Thomas
4th IBCT staff writer — Sgt. Robert Schaffner

3rd CAB NCOIC — Sgt. 1st Class Kim Green
3rd CAB staff writer — Sgt. Monica Smith

Garrison PAO — Rich Olson
Command Information Officer — Jim Jeffcoat
Assistant CIO — Jennifer Scales

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Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs
Hunter Army Airfield PAO — Steven Hart
Assistant PAO — Nancy Gould

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Marne Faces Marne Places

Bowling: inexpensive fun for all

Sgt. Robert Schaffner
The Frontline staff

At Marne and Stewart Lanes, there's low cost fun for everyone – bowling, billiards, video games and more offer a fun and refreshing way to spend time together with friends and family.

Whether you are a competitive bowler or just looking to have fun, these modern bowling centers are equipped with state-of-the-art AMF Automatic Pinspotters and full-color Qubica Automatic Scoring with computerized service for league bowling.

For those interested in league bowling, Marne Lanes is the place to go.

"Marne Lanes offers 36 lanes of bowling and has open bowling and nine various leagues offered throughout the week," said Valencia Larry, an operations assistant. "We have morning and night leagues, a church league, a women's league, a senior's league, a mix league and a Saturday (Young American Bowling Alliance) league for ages 3-18."

Currently, there are a few vacancies on a couple of leagues for those interested in joining.

If the 36 lanes at Marne Lanes seem intimidating or you're looking for a more kid-friendly atmosphere, check out wild lights of "extreme" bowling on the 12 lanes offered at Stewart Lanes across from Corkan Family Fun Center.

"At Stewart Lanes, kid's rule," said Roni Stevens. "Kids get preferential treatment here. On Saturday mornings from 10 to 11:30 a.m., we offer cartoon bowling. What's really cool about it is that we put cartoons on the scoring monitors and use the old scoring sheets."

Having the children take down their own scores on paper allows them to work on their writing and



LEFT: Family Members at Marne Lanes enjoy an afternoon of affordable fun bowling, Sept. 20.

RIGHT: Children participating in a "Bowlopolis" party gather around "Bowlopolis King Pin" at Stewart Lanes, Sept. 19.



Photos by Sgt. Robert Schaffner

math skills, added Stevens.

Although league bowling is not offered at Stewart Lanes, a lot is done to prepare the children for leagues, said Stevens.

On Tuesdays from 4:30-6 p.m., Stewart Lanes offers youth bowling classes to prepare them for league bowling at Marne Lanes in the YABA league, Stevens said.

If you don't have your own bowling equipment, both Marne and Stewart Lanes have rental shoes and bowling balls to use. For the avid bowler, check out the Marne Lanes Pro Shop that carries an assortment of bowling items and can special order most equipment, including balls, bags and shoes to enhance your bowling experience.

Both Marne and Stewart Lanes offers food, drinks and party packages for special occasions to meet almost any need.

Bowling is an inexpensive and great way to socialize and offers something fun and positive to do for everyone of all ages, said Larry.

For more information regarding prices, specials and hours visit the web at www.stewartmwr.com or call Marne lanes at 912-767-4866 or Stewart Lanes at 912-767-4273.

Check out the interactive online bowling center at www.bowlopolis.com that is loaded with games, puzzles and a lot more designed for children to have fun at home and learn about bowling.

MARNE 7

— from Page 1A

Command Sergeant Major Andrews has had four Iraq deployments since 2002 and was present during the surge in 2007-2008. He described Operation New Dawn as "a seamless transition."

"Even before we got here to relieve the 25th Infantry Division (Schofield Barracks, Hawaii), they really transitioned to more of an advise and assist role then (as operations were moved out of Iraqi cities in June 2009). We picked up that particular baton from the 25th and built on that."

Command Sergeant Major Andrews said Operation New Dawn's mission of stability and support is simply a progression of advise and assist. U.S. troops are continuing to train and

assist Iraqi security forces in "force protection and counter-insurgency," he said.

Command Sergeant Major Andrews said U.S. Division North troops have downsized from 12,000 Soldiers in May to about 9,900 today.

"We now have two advise and assist brigades; we originally had four," he said.

Command Sergeant Major Andrews said it is the Iraqis' turn to take the lead.

"We have 160,000 Peshmerga police as well as Iraqi Security Forces in U.S. Division North," he said. "We have enough Iraqi security forces to maintain stability and to take advantage of the gains we've already made."

Violence is down more than 90 percent from 2006 levels, and Iraqi deaths are down 33 percent, he said.

Command Sergeant Major Andrews said the U.S. had about 29 patrol bases last year.

"We're now down to eight as part of the reduction of forces," he said. "Still, there's no degradation in amount of support or assistance provided to our Iraqi partners."

He said apart from his pride in the strides the U.S. military has made in Iraq, he has mixed feelings about leaving the 3rd ID.

"Once a Dog Face Soldier, always a Dog Face Soldier," he said.

Command Sergeant Major Andrews will use his 30-plus years of Army expe-

rience to help train and equip active and Reserve troops for "success on the battlefield" in his new role as senior enlisted advisor at First Army.

The command sergeant major also had nothing but praise for his battle buddy, Task Force Marne and 3rd ID commander, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo.

"Any NCO in the Army, in the world today, would want a commanding general like Maj. Gen. Cucolo," Command Sgt. Maj. Andrews said.

Marne 7 said his commander "understands the Noncommissioned Officer Corps" and empowers NCOs. He's got it. He knows what we do."

If he had a choice, Command Sgt. Maj. Andrews added, "This is the only guy I would want to work for."

Education Matters



College registration in progress

The Fall II Term dates for both on-post and distance learning classes are listed below. Many courses are offered during the day. Please contact the college directly for course schedules and enrollment information.

- Central Texas College – 912-767-2070/ Hunter Airfield 912-315-4090, Oct. 18-Dec. 17
- Columbia College – 912-767-5336/ Hunter Army Airfield 912-352-8635, Oct. 18-Dec. 11
- Embry Riddle – 912-355-0644/ Hunter Army Airfield 912-315-5252, Oct. 18-Dec. 17
- Savannah Tech – 912-408-2430, Sept. 29- Dec. 14
- Webster University – 912-767-5357/ Hunter Army Airfield 912-354-0033, Oct. 18-Dec. 16

Hope Grant for College Credit offered

The Georgia HOPE grant is available to Georgia residents, active duty military assigned to a military installation in Georgia and their Family Members. Of special interest to those who cannot use MyCAA at this time, Savannah Technical College has the Technical Communications Specialist program, which is a great option to fulfill the General Education Requirement courses for your degree.

Under this particular certificate program, the Hope Grant will cover the cost of classes that can later be transferred to most other colleges and universities.

Many other HOPE eligible diploma and certificate programs are offered by Technical Colleges throughout Georgia, including Savannah Technical College, Airport Rd. in Hinesville. Some classes are even available on-line or in the Fort Stewart Education Center. For more information, click on www.gsfc.org and www.savannahtech.edu or call Savannah Tech, Education Center, 912-408-2430; Hinesville, 912-408-3024; Savannah, 912-443-5700. For additional on-line classes, explore the Georgia Virtual Technical College Web site at www.gvtc.org.

Transition-to-Teaching sessions slated

The Georgia Troops to Teachers Program provides federal funding to qualified service members of up to \$10,000 for becoming public school teachers. Bill Kirkland conducts monthly Transition to Teaching 90-minute classes that consist of an overview of programs, registration procedures and Georgia teacher certification options.

This includes the Georgia Teacher Alternative Preparation Program, a two-year program that allows

those with bachelor degrees to teach and certify at the same time. Military spouses are also invited. The next briefing is 10 a.m., Sept. 29, in the education center at Fort Stewart. Call 1-800-745-0709 for more information. The official Web site is www.tttga.net.

Green to Gold holds monthly briefings

The Green-to-Gold scholarship sessions are held at the installation education centers every month at 2 p.m. Upcoming briefings are Oct. 6 at Fort Stewart and Oct. 20 at Hunter.

October GED registration announced

Adult Literacy and GED preparation courses are offered by the Liberty County Adult Education Program at Fort Stewart in the education center. The free classes are held in either morning, afternoon or evening sessions and will prepare you to take the GED or refresh your skills in basic education subjects. There are two registration opportunities in October; Oct. 4-5 or Oct. 18-19. You must be present both consecutive days from 1-5 p.m. to complete the enrollment process. Certain items are necessary to register, so call 912-368-7322 for complete details.

MyCAA new guidelines announced

The Department of Defense will resume the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts, MyCAA, program beginning Oct. 25 for qualifying spouses only. There will be new restrictions, so MyCAA will no longer be open to all military spouses. The changes reflect a return to the original intent of the program – to assist spouses of servicemembers in the pay grades of E-1 to E-5, W1-W2, and 01-02 achieve portable careers. The approved education programs are only associate's degrees, licensure, and certifications. Funding assistance will be up to \$4,000 with an annual cap of \$2,000 per spouse, per fiscal year. To see the full details of the new program, go to the secure Web site, <https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa>. Click on the last link at the site to see alternative education funding resources.

Class dates extended for active MyCAA

Spouses who currently have an active MyCAA account may continue their programs and request financial assistance up to \$6,000 for classes starting on or before Jan. 31, 2011. The last day to submit financial assistance documents is Oct. 21. You should verify tuition and course

numbers with your school. Check your e-mail for details or contact a MyCAA career counselor by dialing 1-800-342-9647.

Columbia College offers scholarship

Columbia College at Fort Stewart is awarding two \$250 scholarships to eligible Students who have completed residency requirements. Other requirements are the applicants must enroll in the upcoming October term, have a 3.0 GPA with the college, and not be in default of any loan. Students may pick up their application at Columbia College office at the education center, building 100. The application deadline is Oct. 15.

Source available for Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill, Chapter 33, is a non-contributory benefit (no up-front payment required by Soldiers) for those who served on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001. The Veterans Administration Web site at www.gibill.va.gov provides in-depth eligibility information for all VA chapters and a link to the on-line application. It also includes all information and steps concerning the transferability to Family Members. Also check out the new Web site, www.ebenefits.va.gov where you can view the status of your VA benefits and much more. If you have questions after exploring the Web site, call 888-442-4551.

Free Online Tutoring offered

The Department of Defense now provides eligible U.S. military members and their Families the ability to get help from a professional tutor anytime you need it — FREE. You and your children can work with a professional tutor online 24/7 to get help with homework, studying, test prep, resume writing and more. School subjects supported are all grade levels of math, science, English, and social studies. Also available are study sources for Standardized Tests to include the ASVAB, GED, college entrance exams and state standardized exams. In addition, there are helpful links for career transitions, writing resumes, studying for exams and helping children with homework. Best of all, it is very easy to access and get started. Just go to www.tutor.com/ and click on the purple “Military” symbol. For more information, call 800-411-1970 or 212-528-3101.



Ft. Stewart/Hunter Morale, Welfare & Recreation

“Top of the Rock” Road Race (5K & 10K) @ FS

25 Sept., 8 a.m. – Between Newman Fitness Center & Quick Track

Ninth annual running event is open to all DOD ID Cardholders. Family members, other spectators invited to cheer on the participants. Individuals can pre-register at Leisure Travel Services, Bldg. 419, or Newman Fitness Center, Bldg 439 at FS, or Tominac Fitness Center, Bldg 919, at HAAF. Cost is \$18 per person until 6 p.m. Sept. 24. T-shirts provided to all runners who register. Final opportunity for individuals to register is Race Day at race site. Fee Race Day is \$25 per person. Strollers are welcome. For details about age categories, trophy awards, call Bennett Sports Office @ 912-767-8238.

National Hunting and Fishing Day Events @ FS

24 Sept., Outdoor Wilderness Fair – 25 Sept., Fishing Event

Outdoor Wilderness Fair in front of Stewart PX 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 24 Sept. will highlight hunting and fishing at Stewart and outdoor recreation opportunities on Stewart and surrounding area. DES, Game Wardens, DPW Fish and Wildlife Branch, DFMWR Outdoor Recreation Program representatives on hand. Fishing event 3-7 p.m. 25 Sept at Pond 30. Free and open to all, young and old. Pond recently stocked with catfish. Five fish per person limit strictly enforced. Fort Stewart and Georgia fishing license requirement waived. Fish and Wildlife will have fish-cleaning demonstration, Game Wardens will provide catfish nugget tasting booth. Outdoor Recreation will have casting event, face-painting, other events. Several fish will be tagged and those who catch these special fish will receive a prize. Limited number of poles available for checkout. Outdoor Recreation will have bait available, but everyone is encouraged to bring their own. For more information, call 912-435-8061 or 912-435-8205.

AFAP Conference @ FS

29-30 Sept., 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; 1 Oct., 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Club Stewart, Bldg. 405

All Military ID cardholders are invited to participate or submit issues at Army Family Action Plan conference. Click on the AFAP 2010 icon on the Team Stewart Website www.stewart.army.mil/homepage to be a delegate or submit global issues that affect the Army as a whole. For more information, call 912-767-5058.

Hawaiian Luau at “Cypress Sam’s” @ FS

30 Sept., 10 a.m.-noon Toddlers Ages 0-5; 5-7 p.m. Kids Ages 6-12

Corkan Family Recreation Area

Help us celebrate the end of another season at “The Springs” Water Spray Park with a luau. The luau, originally scheduled at “The Springs,” has been moved to Cypress Sam’s Treehouse due to construction. Come in costume, enjoy the music and the fruits of a Hawaiian picnic. There’s no charge. We look forward to serving you again beginning May 20, 2011. 912-767-9884

Indianapolis Colts vs. Jacksonville Jaguars

3 Oct., Depart FS 1:30 p.m. – Jacksonville, Fla.

Join Leisure Travel Services for a trip to Jacksonville to see the Colts take on the Jaguars. We’ll depart at 1:30 p.m. Kickoff time is 4:05 p.m. The \$75per person cost includes ticket to game and transportation. Call 912-767-2841 (FS) or 912-315-3674 (HAAF).

2010 U.S. Army Soldier Show @ Stewart, Hunter

5 Oct., 6 Oct. 7 p.m. FS Newman Fitness Center

13 Oct., 7 p.m., HAAF Tominac Fitness Center

“Entertainment for the Soldier, by the Soldier” song-and-dance production cast includes two Fort Stewart performers. Sgt. Kevin Cherry, of the 3rd ID Band, sings and plays the saxophone. SPC Alvaro Loaiza of the 92nd Chemical Company is a pianist. Production includes a tribute to Michael Jackson. As always, the troops will deliver several genres of music and dance, complete with Soldier-musicians on guitar, bass, keyboard and drums. Free, open to the public. 912-767-6212

Great MWR Yard Sale Sign-Up

Deadlines 19 Oct. (Post Housing); 22 Oct. (Main Lots)

Sale 23 Oct., 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sale sites are Club Stewart & Hunter Credit Union parking lots, plus post housing areas. Vendors (Active Duty Soldiers, Family Members, Retirees, and DoD Civilians) charged \$5 for parking lot space. No charge for post residents selling in Post Housing, but must preregister. In addition to yard sale at Stewart, there will be a NAF property sale of items such as furniture, televisions, exercise equipment and appliances at Bldg. 1501. NAF sale is open to Active Duty Soldiers, Family Members, Retirees and Army Civilians only. Info or to sign up: visit or call Bennett Sports Complex, Bldg. 471, 912-767-8238 or Tominac Fitness Center, Bldg. 919, 912-315-2019.

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Weekend dining facility hours scheduled

The Fort Stewart weekend dining facilities for Saturday and Sunday is Provider DFAC, building 726, and STB DFAC, building 207. Provider dining facility weekend serving hours are brunch, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and supper, 3:30-5 p.m. STB dining facility serving hours are breakfast, 8-9:30 a.m.; lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and dinner, 5-6:30 p.m.

The Hunter Army Airfield weekend dining facility is the 1/75 Ranger Dining Facility, building 110. Hunter Army Airfield dining facility weekend serving hours are 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for brunch, and 4:30-6 p.m. for supper.

For more information, call the DFAC hotline at 912-767-4991.

Report violations of Home Alone Policy

Children will not be left unsupervised in quarters at any time, nor will they be left under the supervision of other children for extended periods. To report information about known or suspected child abuse, contact Social Work Services at (Stewart) 912-435-6779 or (Hunter) 912-315-5236. You also can call ACS for additional information at (Stewart) 912-767-5058 or (Hunter) 912-315-6816.

The entire Home Alone & Juvenile Curfew policy can be found on the ACS page of the Team Stewart Web site at www.stewart.army.mil/DMWR/as.

Telephone dialing plan to change Oct 1

Beginning Oct. 1, customers utilizing government telephone service will be required to dial two additional digits in order to place calls off the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield installation. The new dialing plan will require callers to dial the following new prefixes before dialing off post: 94 for DSN access; 99 for local access; and 97 before dialing 1 for long distance access.

Customers are reminded to re-program their auto-dialing systems and speed dialing features to accommodate the new dialing plan. These changes are in compliance with DoD, DISA and NETCOM's Worldwide Numbering and Dialing Plan.

Vanguard road becomes Warrior Road

As of Oct. 1, the name of Vanguard Road will be changed to Warrior Road. For more information, contact Directorate of Public Works, Jana Tanner at 912-767-5220.

Suicide Prevention Month activities

Shoulder to Shoulder, "You Are Not Alone"

Fort Stewart: Army Substance Abuse Program Administrative, building 201, 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 3-4 p.m., Sept. 2.

Hunter: 9-10 a.m. and 1-2 p.m., Sept. 27. Location pending.

Civilian "You Are Not Alone" brown bag lunch

Fort Stewart ASAP Administrative, building 201, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sept. 29.

A.C.E. Intervention

Hunter: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Sept. 28.

Fort Stewart ACS SPM classes

Keys to Managing Stress, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Sept. 28.

Hunter ACS SPM classes

Keys to Managing Stress, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Sept. 27.
Living on a Plan: How to Create a Budget that Works, 9-11 a.m., Sept. 29.

For more information or FRG/Unit briefs, please contact Alfrieda Adams, Suicide Prevention Program Manager, at 912-767-5828 or Alfrieda.adams2@us.army.mil.

Stewart library now closed Sundays

Effective immediately, George P. Hays Library, build-

ing 411 at Fort Stewart, will begin closing on Sundays. Otherwise, the hours remain the same: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday - Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed on federal holidays. For more information, call 912-767-2828.

Register for "Top of the Rock" Road Race

Registration for the "Top of the Rock" road race sponsored by Family and MWR Sports Office began Aug. 16 and runs thru Race Day, Saturday. The race is open to all military ID cardholders. There are 10 different age categories for males and females at the 5K and 10K race, and one 10K team category (minimum of 10 runners from same unit) for the competition. For individuals, the pre-registration deadline is Friday and entry fee is \$18 per person. Register at Hunter's Tominac Fitness Center, building 919; Stewart's Leisure Travel Services, building 419; or Newman Fitness Center, building 439.

Individuals only will be able to register on Race Day, at 8 a.m., Saturday at Fort Stewart between Newman Fitness Center and Quick Track. Entry fee is \$25 per person. Trophies will be awarded to the top three winners of the 5K and 10K (male and female finishers), top two finishers in each age category and the top two team finishers. T-shirts will be provided to all runners who register. For details, call Stewart's Bennett Sports Office, 912-767-8238.

FRG Training child care paid until Sept 30

Child care will be paid for the following FRG Trainings at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield:

- * FRG Basic Course - 6.5 hours
- * Key Caller Training - 2.5 hours
- * Treasurer Training - 2.5 hours
- * Family Care Team Training - 3 hours
- * Advanced FRG Training - 6.5 hours
- * Advanced FRG Treasurer Training - 2.5 hours

To sign up, call Army Community Service at (Stewart) 912-767-5058 or (Hunter) 912-315-6816. Children will go to the Child Development Center (Stewart), building 475, or (Hunter) building 1289. Reservations must be made no later than 72 hours prior to the class. Cancellations must be made at least four hours prior to the start of the training. If the training begins at 9 a.m., the cancellation must be made to Army Community Service the day prior to training.

More than two "no shows" without appropriate cancellation to the Child Development Center will result in the loss of free child care for FRG Training. Call ACS for additional information.

Career Expo slated

CivilianJobs.com is hosting a Career Expo at Fort Stewart, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Oct. 6 at Club Stewart, 1020 Hero Rd., building 405. The expo offers employers a way to meet motivated and proven transitioning service members as they begin their career search following their military service.

This event offers candidates and employers a profile pre-matching process that ensures a company's representatives will meet the attendees whose backgrounds offer the best fit for their positions. For more information about the event, call the Army Career & Alumni Program office at 337-531-1591. All military and prior military may visit www.civilianjobs.com to pre-register.

JPAS training scheduled

IAW 380-67, Units and Directorates Security (S2) personnel are required to possess certified Joint Personnel Adjudication System (JPAS), operators. The DPTMS Security Division PSI and SETA Branch conducts four hours of JPAS training, which prepares individuals to utilize the system, Oct. 13.

The training enables the trainee to:

- Acquire a system password
- Check and update unit personnel's current clearances
- Take ownership / service / and clear personnel

The next JPAS training will be offered on the Oct. 13. Location is in the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center, building 100, room 179. Training is from 1-5 p.m. and can only support a maximum of 22 personnel. Availability is on a first come basis. Possession of an active security clearance is a pre-requisite IOT attend the training and receive access to the JPAS system. Visit at <https://webs.stewart.army.mil/DPTMS/secEdu.aspx>. If you cannot access the link, please send an e-mail to wilfredo.mercado@conus.army.mil.

STEWART

Come to Sgt. Rocky's Neighborhood

Come to Sgt. Rocky's Neighborhood Puppet Show at the Family Readiness Center, building 87, 4-6 p.m., Oct. 29, Nov. 10 and Dec. 7. ACS production. Rated G, ages 9 and under. For more information, contact ACS at 912-767-5058/5059. Starring Sgt. Rocky, Tonya Tommy, Rachel Feat and Lady Liberty. We're currently focusing on reintegration issues. Requests are taken for deployment and unit shows or special events.

Shop of the Marne Open House slated

Always wanted to check out the Shop of the Marne but never seem to get a chance? Stop by Sept. 23 from 6-8 p.m. for our fall open house and a book signing with Tanya Biank, author of *Army Wives!* We've got tons of new consigner items, new Polish Pottery and some spooky new decorations! To celebrate the first day of fall, ALL items will be on sale at 10-percent off!

Interested in volunteering at the shop? We're always looking for a little help! Want to be a little more involved? The Shop of the Marne is looking for a Chairperson and a Volunteer Coordinator. E-mail Val Quintilliani at shopofthearne@hotmail.com if you're interested.

The Shop is located at 190 Stockton Circle, building 25, behind the PX. The Shop now has extended hours. We are now open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

HUNTER

Thrift store accepts donation requests

The Hunter Army Airfield Thrift Store is now accepting donation requests for the Fall/Christmas disbursement through Oct. 15 from all FRGs and units.

Donation Request Forms can be picked up at the Thrift Store during regular business hours, Wednesdays, Fridays, and the first Saturday of each month, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are currently looking for motivated individuals to fill volunteer and open board positions.

Tuttle Army Health Clinic flu vaccine

Flu vaccines are available at Tuttle Health Clinic at Hunter, beginning Sept. 27. Walk-ins are accepted Monday-Friday, from 8-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Call 912-435-5400, the Flu Hotline, for updates on vaccine availability.

Hunter holds day for kids

Hunter Splash Park hosts a Day for Kids, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday at the Hunter Splash Park. The event provides an opportunity for Parents and kids to stay involved and in touch by spending meaningful time together. Activities includes music, sack races, tug of war, tattoos, ring toss, bean bag toss, jump rope contests and bike rodeo for ages 6-9. Free food and drinks. For more information, call Debra Grant at 912-315-9795.

Help avoid security leaks, report security threats

Guy Shifflett
Information Security

The Army faces threats from persons on the inside (the Insider Threat), those with placement and access in an organization who may compromise our ability to accomplish the mission through espionage, acts of terrorism, support to international terrorist organizations, or unauthorized release or disclosure of classified or sensitive information. Recent events such as the unauthorized disclosure of classified information to WikiLeaks underscores and reemphasizes the potential of the "Insider Threat" to cause serious damage to national security.

Potential "Insider Threat" indicators of espionage include:

- Attempts to obtain information for which the person has no authorized access or "Need To Know."
- Unauthorized copying of sensitive documents.
- Disregard for security practices.
- Unexplained foreign travel or influences.
- Improper use of information technology systems or repeated attempts to access restricted information.
- Threats made by disgruntled employees.
- Persistent questioning about the duties of co-workers and their access to classified information/technology.

- Unexplained or undue affluence without a logical income.

Report security threats

Personnel will report threat related incidents as soon as possible, within 24 hours, after learning of the incident. Contact number to the 902nd MI Group field office is 912-315-5010/3300 or U.S. Army call hotline, at 1-800-CALLSPY. You may also report online via the Army Knowledge Online Counterintelligence reporting page, I-SALUTE link.

The information will be sent directly and only to Army CI. It does not go through your chain of command.

Balfour Beatty Communities

STEWART

Safety on Wheels Raffle slated

Enter our raffle for a chance to win some safety gear to keep you free from bumps and bruises. Helmets and elbow and knee pads are important no matter what kind of ride your wheels are on. Enter at our Southern Oaks Community Center or Liberty Woods Leasing Office at your convenience, Sept. 20-26.

Winners notified on Sept. 27.

Play Broom Ball

It's a fun twist on soccer. Use a broom instead of your feet to get the ball into your competitor's goal. It's a mash up between soccer and hockey. Help your team score! Join the fun at The Southern Oaks Community Center from 3:30-4:30 p.m., Sept. 30.

HUNTER

Enter the Safety on Wheels Raffle

Enter our raffle for a chance to win some safety gear to keep you free from bumps and bruises. Helmets and elbow and knee pads are important no matter what kind of ride your wheels are on. Enter at our Community Management Office or New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center at any time, Sept. 20-26.

Join us for Broom Ball

It's a fun twist on soccer. Use a broom instead of your feet to get the ball into your competitor's goal. It's a mash up between soccer and hockey. Help your team score! Join the fun at Our Community Management Office from 5-6 p.m., Sept. 28.

LEGAL NOTICE

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. Lugo Martin, C Co. 1/75 Ranger Regt.**, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., 31409, please contact Chief Warrant Officer Paul Sherman, 912-315-5091.

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Spc. Christopher Shane Wright, C Co. 1/75 Ranger Regt.**, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., 31409, please contact 1st Lt. Emery Vickers, Mobilization Operations Center, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314, 912-977-0613.

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Maj. Paul A. Egli, HHC, 1st HBCT, 3rd ID**, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31414, please contact Chief Warrant Officer Adam W. Green, 3rd BDB, 1st HBCT, 3rd ID, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31414, at 912-767-3994

Wisconsin couple gives Soldier a new Family

Sgt. Mary S. Katzenberger
1st AAB, 3rd ID, USD-C

BAGHDAD—When Spc. Christopher Sandri travels home for leave this month, he plans on enjoying home-cooked meals and fishing for bass.

Specialist Sandri, an infantryman with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Division – Center, said the best moments of leave, however, will be those spent with his parents, John and Dorean Sandri of Green Bay, Wis.

He said he feels strongly about this because until two years ago, he didn’t have parents to visit while on leave. Nor did he have parents to send him care packages while he was deployed to Anbar Province (Iraq)



Sgt. Mary S. Katzenberger

Specialist Christopher Sandri, an infantryman with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Division – Center, relaxes in his room and shares a laugh with his adoptive mother, Dorean Sandri, of Green Bay, Wis., while chatting online. Dorean and her husband, John, adopted Spc. Sandri in 2009.

from October 2007 to April 2008.

Specialist Sandri said what was even more painful was standing on the parade field alone after redeploying April 2008 to Fort Stewart, Ga. while other Soldiers went home with their Families.

“I pretty much sucked it up and went to the barracks,” he said.

Specialist Sandri, a Laurel, Md., native, was born Christopher Kroll on October 14, 1983, and was practically raised by his grandparents because his biological mother was unable to do so.

While he had maintained a strained relationship with his mother since joining the military and leaving Maryland, the relationship worsened after he left the U.S. for an assignment in Germany.

“She wasn’t happy I couldn’t contact her all the time,” Spc. Sandri said. “The longer I was over in Germany, the more and more she just grew away from me.”

After three years and a 6-month deployment to Afghanistan, Spc. Sandri moved to Fort Stewart, Ga. It was then, over a phone call, that his biological mother ended all contact with her son.

“Her exact words that day when I called her were, ‘I have no son anymore,’” Spc. Sandri said. “At the time, it didn’t bother me because we were in the middle of training; it didn’t click.”

Specialist Sandri said two “rough” years later—by chance—he met his future adoptive mother, Dorean, through an online chat server.

Dorean, an executive secretary for the not-for-profit organization, Adopt a U.S. Soldier, read Spc. Sandri’s profile and upon realizing he was a Soldier, suggested he meet her husband, a Vietnam War veteran. Once Spc. Sandri conversed with the man, the three adults became very close and talked frequently.

Through months of communication the Sandris heard about Spc. Sandri’s Family history. Knowing he had nowhere to go over the holidays, the couple invited him to spend Christmas of 2008 with them in Green Bay; Spc. Sandri accepted.

The visit was a meaningful experience for Spc. Sandri, especially when one evening, while sitting in

the garage, John Sandri asked the Soldier if he would consider becoming his and Dorean’s son. The question caught Spc. Sandri off guard at first, and he said he needed to think about it. It only took Spc. Sandri two days to decide.

“It was like, alright; I’m going to do it—I don’t have anybody else to trace back to.” Spc. Sandri said. “I actually found out (part of the reason) behind it was because (John and Dorean) can’t have children.”

Specialist Chris Kroll and his soon-to-be parents submitted the necessary paperwork to the courthouse. In early 2009, the Soldier officially became known as Christopher Sandri.

Specialist Sandri said since the adoption, it has been easy fitting in with the Family.

“If there’s one thing I’ve got to admit about John and (Dorean), their whole Family—every last one of them—is nuts,” Spc. Sandri said with a laugh.

Specialist Sandri said he has especially appreciated being able to talk to his adoptive father about things that have happened during his deployments. On the Soldier’s last visit to the Sandri household prior to his current deployment, he said his adoptive father broke down into tears when sharing some of his memories from the Vietnam War, in which he served as a medevac pilot.

“It brought me to tears,” Spc. Sandri said. “He sat down and he looked at me, and figured it’s only fair that if he spilled it all out to me then it won’t make me feel awkward if for some reason during my career I need to talk to somebody.”

Specialist Sandri said Dorean always lets him know he’s wanted and that she loves him completely.

“It makes a difference knowing that if I have a hard day at work, I can get online and gripe to my parents,” he said. “My father will take it like a champ and find a way to make me laugh and my mother will be not too far behind with a promise of fresh made cookies coming in the mail.”

“All in all, John and Dorean are the best thing that’s ever happened to me,” Spc. Sandri said.

Vanguard Soldiers train Iraqi mechanics

Staff Sgt. Tanya Thomas
4th AAB, 3rd ID Public Affairs

HABANIYA, Iraq—Mechanics with the 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, are helping to improve the readiness of Iraqi Security Forces by instructing vehicle maintenance classes at Iraqi Army Camp Habiniya.

These weekly classes are part of USD-C’s effort to help build ISF capabilities as the U.S. continues to move more troops out of Iraq, and the ISF continues to take the lead in securing a stable and sovereign Iraq.

Specialist Henry Moss, a Greenville, S.C., native, and Spc. Edwin Perez, a Long Beach, Calif., native, both mechanics with the 703rd BSB, teach troubleshooting tactics to Iraqi mechanics responsible for maintaining all Iraqi Army vehicles in Anbar Province.

“Every time we come out here, we try to give them the best knowledge we have on the vehicle that they are working on,” Spc. Moss said. “Normally, we try to teach classes that pertain to current issues they are having.”

Specialist Moss said he and Spc. Perez teach the values of preventive maintenance checks and services to the Iraqi mechanics, and that a lack of proper PMCS is the most common reason for vehicle-breakdowns.

Specialist Perez said the vehicles require extra attention here because of the extreme heat in Iraq.

Iraqi Army vehicles differ greatly from U.S. military vehicles, but the differences do not deter the 703rd BSB Soldiers from helping their counterparts, Spc. Perez said.

“We educate ourselves so that we can further educate them,” he said. “The good thing about mechanics is that it all pretty much works the same.”



Staff Sgt. Tanya Thomas

Specilaist Henry Moss (right front), a mechanic with Company B, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Division – Center, discusses repair of a humvee engine with mechanics with the Iraqi Ministry of Defense at Camp Habiniya, Iraq, Sept. 15.

Specialist Moss, who was deployed in 2007 to Camp Ramadi, Iraq, said much has changed over the past three years.

“The (ISF) are progressing very well,” he said. “You can tell that this country is improving.”

Specialist Moss said he has noticed vast improvements among the Iraqi mechanics he has personally trained.

“When we first got here, they would just replace any problematic (vehicle component),” Spc. Moss

said. “Now, they are actually troubleshooting the equipment instead of spending thousands of dollars on replacing it. Maintaining these skills is very important. If they don’t have these skills, then they cannot defend against the people who are trying to attack them.”

Specialist Perez shared similar sentiments.

“We’re here making a difference,” Spc. Perez said. “It makes you feel good to be able to do something for their country.”

It’s all a learning experience, one Soldier’s career path

Capt. Timothy Nash
TF Marne Public Affairs

DIYALA, Iraq — As the second youngest Soldier in Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Company, Division Special Troops Battalion, Pfc. Nanalee Litzsinger has held more full time jobs than most young people her age.

Private First Class Litzsinger, 19, is one of the intelligence analysts for Command Post-South at Forward Operating Base Warhorse in Diyala province, Iraq. Her team’s mission at FOB Warhorse is to help Brig Gen. Patrick Donahue, the Deputy Commanding General-Maneuver for Task Force Marne, maintain awareness of insurgent activities in the area. Private First Class Litzsinger’s job at CP South is to read historical data that is collected in the province.

Her analysis of the data helps her team make an assessment about possible insurgent activities that may occur

in Diyala province.

Private First Class Litzsinger has accomplished a lot in her 19 years. She graduated from high school when she was 16 years old. Her rationale to graduate early was simply that she could.

“It was kind of easy for me to graduate early,” said Pfc. Litzsinger. “I got into the online thing where I realized that I could actually get through school a lot faster if I just took the courses online.”

As soon as she received her diploma, Pfc. Litzsinger decided she didn’t want to be a barista at Starbucks anymore. She realized online courses were the key to getting her into the workforce quickly, so she turned to Job Corps. Job Corps is the Web site for the U.S. Department of Labor, which offers vocational online training and helps young people find jobs. Private First Class Litzsinger took courses in business technologies; these included learning basic computer programs, taxes and other office skills. Through the programs at Job Corps she

got her first job working at a law firm that specialized in real estate.

“The biggest problem was that I was young so it was really hard for me to find a job,” said Pfc. Litzsinger. “Once I got a job, it wasn’t that big of a deal because I had to dress professionally ... so it kind of made me look older. People really just thought I was in my early twenties.”

Private First Class Litzsinger was still 16 when she got her second job as a billing representative for a physical therapy company. As a billing representative, she quickly learned the ropes and found herself in charge of training all new employees on the software the company used to track their patients. After that, she became a sales person for an advertising company in Florida.

At the age of 17, after working for Starbucks, a law firm, a physical therapy company and an advertising company, Pfc. Litzsinger set her sights on the Army.

“Both of my dads were in the military,

and I’d always wanted to be in the military growing up,” said Pfc. Litzsinger. “It was hard for me to find a job even though I had the education so I decided to search around to see what the military could offer me. It was between the Coast Guard and the Army. Obviously, I chose the Army.”

Private First Class Litzsinger wants to be a teacher. Sometimes she thinks that she wants to stay in the Army and teach Soldiers attending Advanced Individual Training. She could also see herself teaching high school English or music to elementary school children. Regardless of what she decides, her experience in the Army has had its academic benefits.

“I don’t regret anything in my life, it’s all a learning experience,” said Pfc. Litzsinger. “With the Army I’ve gotten used to talking in front of people, and it’s also really helped me improve my writing. Whether I stick with the Army or go to the civilian side those skills will be invaluable for my career.”

Community salutes POW/MIAs

Seraine Page
Special to The Frontline

More than 100 people gathered on Fort Stewart in remembrance of those who have gone missing or were killed in action while serving in the military over the past several decades, Sept. 17.

The outside ceremony called together veterans from all eras, including Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, and the War on Terror to recognize and remember fellow fallen comrades.

Last week, the Hinesville city council and Liberty County Board of Commissioners officially declared Sept. 17 POW/MIA Observance Day to remember those who have served and may have never returned home to their Families.

Dennis Fitzgerald, a 22-year Army veteran and chairman of the program, said it is crucial for American citizens to always recall the sacrifices of those serving in the military.

It was especially for the ones who never make it home.

“It is very important because there are too many POW/MIAs forgotten from all the wars,” he said.

Fitzgerald spoke for most of the evening, including leading the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in front of a flagpole where the black and white MIA flag flapped in the breeze.

Paul Spence, project officer of the local chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America, agreed with Fitzgerald about remembering all of the veterans, not just the ones from their era.

“We have friends that we left in Vietnam,” Spence said of continuing to respect fallen soldiers.

“Unfortunately, when we returned, we didn’t get the reception that (they) get today,” Spence said. “We were in a different era, a different culture. In Iraq, the troops have been supported 100 percent. We support them 100 percent.”

In front of the lectern were two small tables — one draped in white, one in black — as symbols of POW/MIAs and those killed in action.

Spence spoke about the significance of a table draped by a white lace table-

cloth, set for just one to have dinner alone. The table represented the frailty of a Soldier captured and facing his oppressors alone.

He said even though he has read the same literature about the table for the past 15 years. “It doesn’t get any easier,” he said.

Susan Harvey, who remembers the loss of her brother overseas 40 years ago this Sept. 26, described the other table, for those killed in action.

Both chairs sat empty, as a symbol of the soldiers who are meant to spend time with their Families but never came home.

Colonel Kevin W. Milton, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander, spoke briefly to thank Families for coming out to the ceremony. He read estimated death tolls from each war.

“As you depart this ceremony today, remember, freedom isn’t always free,” Col. Milton said.

Then members of the VVA slowly marched to the lectern to read off names of Georgia Vietnam POW/MIAs.

After a few names were called off, a new member would step up and take over the reading.

Previous readers would march down the sidewalk to stand in front of easels holding up posters, drawings and a few photos of missing military members.

The ceremony was concluded with the playing of Taps, a moment of silence and a benediction.

Attendees, mainly veterans and current Fort Stewart Soldiers and staff, attended a small reception after the service to socialize.

“We help in little ways,” Spence said of the ceremony. “If the Families need us, we’ll be there in a heartbeat.”

Judy Waynick attended the service with her husband, Jimmy, who is also a member of the chapter.

“It was a good ceremony,” she said. “We just need to remember them.”

Jimmy, a 20-year Army veteran, was grateful he was able to make it to the ceremony again this year.

“As always, it is a moving ceremony,” he said. “We’re always glad to put it on.”



Seraine Page
Angel Sanabria, Henry O’Neal and Harvey Stokes, Vietnam veterans, stand together before the POW/MIA ceremony. Sept. 17.



Nancy Gould, Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs
Veterans from Chapter 671, Donald Singleton (left), 2011 Veteran of the Year; and Walt Peters (right), 2010 Veteran of the Year; lay a wreath on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Emmet Park in Savannah during a POW/MIA evening ceremony, Sept. 17. The ceremony is held annually by Chapter 671 to honor all POW/MIAs who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

TF Falcon Soldiers receive Broken Wing Award

Sgt. Monica K. Smith
3rd CAB, TF Falcon Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Task Force Falcon Soldiers received the aviation Broken Wing Award at Forward Operating Base Fenty, Sept. 15. Chief Warrant Officer Jacob Crause and Capt. Patrick DuBois, both with Troop C, TF Lighthorse, 3rd CAB, TF Falcon, earned the award for their actions eight months ago.

On the morning of Jan. 19, Chief Warrant Officer Crause and Capt. DuBois were piloting a Kiowa Warrior departing from Jalalabad Airfield. While maneuvering to provide cover for the lead aircraft, their aircraft lost hydraulic pressure, which Chief Warrant Officer Crause said was like “driving a Humvee truck without power steering, except it’s in three dimensions and you can’t pull over to the side of the road.”

“In our particular case, it became apparent very early on that something else was not quite right with the flight controls,” said Chief Warrant Officer Crause. “Moving the flight controls in one direction was about three times harder than moving them in the opposite direction. This is unusual and was not the case in a previous hydraulics failure I experienced during my tour in Iraq. I realized that without the help of my left seater, [Capt.] Dubois, I was going to have a very tough time getting the aircraft down in one piece.”

Chief Warrant Officer Crause began executing emergency procedures, regaining stable level flight in a wider valley. Together, with Capt. Dubois controlling the rate of descent and Chief Warrant Officer Crause controlling the direction of movement, the pilots maneuvered the aircraft back to the runway, notifying the tactical operations center of the situation. As they neared the airfield, visibility decreased from five miles to half a mile due to smoke and haze. With the decreased visibility and the remaining mountainous terrain before them, Chief Warrant Officer Crause determined to remain at altitude to provide best clearance.

The two pilots were able to maneuver the Kiowa Warrior, land and shut down without further incident.

“The only time fear entered the equation was after we came to a complete stop and I realized what we had



Sgt. Candice Pepple
Colonel Don Galli, commander of the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Falcon, presents a Broken Wing Award to Capt. Patrick DuBois, a pilot with Troop C, TF Lighthorse, 3rd CAB, TF Falcon, during an awards ceremony at Forward Operating Base Fenty, Afghanistan, Sept. 15.

just done,” said Chief Warrant Officer Crause. “We made a pretty smooth landing skidding to a stop after about 50 feet. I can neither confirm nor deny that we may or may not have executed a high five in the cockpit after we came to a safe stop.”

“I am extremely proud of both [Chief Warrant Officer] Crause and Capt. Dubois,” said Lt. Col. Thomas von-Eschenbach, commander of TF Lighthorse, 3rd CAB, TF Falcon. “They were truly deserving of their Broken Wing Awards as they kept calm under the pressure of an emergency situation by making great decisions and

demonstrating great technical skill in flying their aircraft from the battlefield safely back to the airfield. Their determination and skill personifies what I call the "Lighthorse Spirit," a spirit that accepts every challenge and accomplishes every task assigned making the most difficult look easy."

The awards were presented by Col. Don Galli, commander of TF Falcon.

“I’m very honored to have received this award,” said Chief Warrant Officer Crause. “However, I hope this is my last opportunity to do so.”

EXERCISE

—from Page 1A

While there has been no indication of an upcoming pandemic, last year’s H1N1 virus made the public aware of the increased risk we would face in preventing the spread of flu while waiting on a vaccine to protect our installation. This year’s influenza vaccine will provide protection against the H1N1 strain as well as the two other most common flu viruses. The influenza vaccination is the most important preventive measure you can take to protect yourself, your Family, your workplace, your school and ultimately your community. High vac-

cination rates in our population will decrease widespread illness and diminish the need to implement all community-wide countermeasures to control the spread of the influenza virus. If we do face a new virus in the future that is very serious, this exercise will have made us better prepared to ensure efficient access to other medical care services and better overall service to our Soldiers, civilians and Families. This is an important opportunity for the installation’s medical staff as well as other installation directorates to rehearse their key

roles in a pandemic influenza situation. MEDDAC, DENTAC and the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security have key roles in responding to and facilitating this exercise.

Fort Stewart will be the first Army installation to conduct an exercise of this type. Lessons from the exercise will be shared with installation leadership, the public and used Army-wide to further strengthen our readiness and response plans for public health emergencies.

Rock of the Marne and First to Care!

CID celebrates 39th anniversary

Randy Murray

Fort Stewart Public Affairs

The U.S. Army's Criminal Investigative Division celebrated its 39th anniversary, Sept. 17. To commemorate the occasion, Fort Stewart's 30th Military Police Detachment (CID) held an open house at their headquarters with a special invitation to current and former CID agents and their Families.

"One of the best memories I have – aside from the day I got married and the birth of my daughters – is the day I raised my right hand and took the Special Agent Oath," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Billy Higgason, detachment commander and Special Agent in charge of 30th MP Detachment (CID), following opening remarks and a brief history of CID at the anniversary ceremony.

Chief Warrant Officer Higgason then invited all current and former CID agents attending the open house and anniversary ceremony to stand and re-take the oath. More than a dozen plain-clothes officers past and present who were sitting stood up, raised their right hand and together repeated the Special Agent Oath:

"I, (agent's name), do hereby swear (or affirm) that I shall support and uphold the Constitution and the Laws of the United States; that I shall endeavor to discharge my responsibilities as a United States Army CID Special Agent in accordance therewith; that I shall at all times seek diligently to discover the truth, deterred neither by fear nor prejudice; and I shall strive to be worthy of the special trust reposed in me by my country, the United States Army, and the Criminal Investigation Command."

The open house included a guided tour of the CID facility conducted by special agents. During his tour, Special Agent Jesse Zander explained what each of the offices and storage areas were used for, including evidence, interrogation and equipment rooms. While pointing to a corner of one room filled with specialized equipment used for hostage situations, Special Agent Zander noted that it was CID agents from their office that responded to and worked with Winn Army Community Hospital personnel to defuse the recent hostage situation there.

After leading everyone in re-taking their oath, Chief Warrant Officer Higgason and Ellie Tolbert, a retired CID special agent now serving as investigative operations assistant, cut a birthday cake, which included the three CID badges and alluded to the Special Agent Oath, "Diligently Seeking the Truth."

Unofficially, the Army CID can trace its origins to 1918 when Gen. John Pershing directed the Provost Marshal General of the American Expeditionary Forces to organize a criminal investigative division. However, during the



Photos by Randy Murray

Sergeant First Class Jonathan McDavid (left), 30th MP Det. (CID) operation noncommissioned officer, and Special Agent Billy Higgason (right), 30th MP Det. (CID) commander and special agent in charge, watch Ellie Tolbert, a retired CID special agent now serving as investigative operations assistant, while she cuts the birthday cake as part of celebrations for the Army Criminal Investigation Division's 39th anniversary.

years following World War I through the World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War, CID existed off and on under the command of the Provost Marshal, rather than as an independent Army command. Also, agents were not formally trained to investigate felonies.

On Sept. 17, 1971, Criminal Investigation Division was established as a major Army command, headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va., with a mission to investigate felonies committed on and off military reservations, often working with local, state and other federal investigative agencies.



Special Agent Jesse Zander explains the purpose of the evidence photo table during a tour of Fort Stewart's Criminal Investigation Division facilities as part of 30th MP Det. (CID) open house and celebration of CID's 39th anniversary, Sept. 17.

TF Falcon holds Soldier of the Year Board



Sgt. Monica K. Smith

Specialist Jeremy Corley, Company B, Task Force Workhorse, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, TF Falcon, shows Sgt. Maj. William Gammon, the TF Falcon plans NCOIC, how to clear an M16A2 rifle during the TF Falcon Soldier of the Year Board at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Sept. 16.

Sgt. Monica K. Smith
3rd CAB, TF Falcon Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Task Force Falcon Soldiers from across Regional Command-East gathered at Bagram Airfield to compete in the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, TF Falcon Soldier of the Year Board.

“We have the board to prepare Soldiers to do better at the promotion board and to give young motivated Soldiers an opportunity to set themselves apart from their peers in the eyes of their leaders,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Stidley, 3rd CAB, TF Falcon. “This event allows senior NCOs in the brigade the opportunity to recognize young NCOs and junior enlisted and to identify the best of the best.”

Each of the 14 Soldiers had to compete at the company level and then again at the task force level in order to compete at the brigade-level quarterly board. The winners of the quarterly boards then competed and each task force sent one Soldier and one NCO to compete at the TF Falcon Brigade Soldier of the Year Board. All competitors were required to take a PT test the day of the board, adding physical strain to mental strain.

“They were trying to get the best NCO and the best Soldier and to be the best you have to be the best in all areas,” said Sgt. Aaron Butterfield, Company D, TF Knighthawk, 3rd CAB, TF Falcon. “This board tested the limits of both

the physical and the mental aspects, especially with the first aid lanes.”

After the PT test came the board. During the board Soldiers were questioned on subjects ranging from uniforms to promotions to rules of engagement. Often more than one person would ask a question at a time, and with the “no-rules” style of questioning, a Soldier would find himself trying to don his protective mask, while conducting first aid, identifying bugle calls and answering a question on land navigation, all at the same time.

“It’s hard trying to answer four different questions at the same time,” said Spc. Tricia Smith, who works in the personnel office of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, TF Brawler, 3rd CAB, TF Falcon. “But it feels good to do it. It’s an accomplishment, even if I didn’t win.”

“I learned to be able to keep my composure under stress,” said Spc. Jeremy Corley, an aircraft electrician with Company B, TF Workhorse, 3rd CAB, TF Falcon. “You go in and all the sergeants major are there trying to intimidate you. You have to be able to go in and be confident, not let them get to you and keep your military bearing.”

In the end, Spc. Corley won for the junior enlisted and Sgt. Butterfield for the NCOs.

“I feel like I’m setting a good example for my Soldiers,” said Sgt. Butterfield. “It was a lot of hard work, but it paid off in the end.”

Task Force Viper medics answer the call

Capt. Troy W. Akers
1/3 Aviation, TF Viper, 3rd CAB, TF Falcon

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan – Combat medics around the Army work diligently caring for their fellow Soldiers, Coalition forces, and even foes, actions that are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service. A group of medics with Task Force Viper, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, TF Falcon, have answered the call to take care of patients, not only on the ground, but also in the air.

“Our medics perform daily operations at the aid station and fly as flight medics, picking up patients on point-of-injury missions,” said Capt. Tina Koile, an aeromedical physician assistant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, TF Viper. “They also help us run our trauma bed at the (combat surgical hospital), by identifying injuries, starting IVs and doing trauma care on critically injured patients. This takes an extensive amount of training and is a lot of extra responsibility. They are exceptional.”

In early April, it was identified that TF Vipers’ medevac unit, Company C, 2/104th, Witch Doctor DUSTOFF, only had four flight medics attached to their unit and would benefit from additional medical support. Sergeants Pedro Lopez and Evelia Rodriguez, both medics with TF Viper, answered the call and offered their help. Now as almost fully progressed crewmembers, Sgt. Lopez and Sgt. Rodriguez



Capt. Troy Akers

Sergeant Pedro Lopez and Sgt. Evelia Rodriguez, both with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force Viper, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, TF Falcon, perform an assessment of a patient during medevac training exercises in a Black Hawk at FOB Salerno, Sept. 7.

regularly augment the flight schedule, flying as secondary medics on many point-of-injury missions.

“Working with medevac is exciting but challenging,” said Sgt. Rodriguez, HHC, TF Viper. “I had to get over my motion sickness and get used to flying in general. The medevac unit personnel are wonderful and have helped with my progression as a crewmember. It’s taken a lot of hard work but mede-

vac is a nice change to the clinical setting that I’m used to.”

As part of the FOB Salerno trauma team, Sgt. Lopez and Sgt. Rodriguez work with TF Viper medics, Spc. John Reed, Spc. Brittany Simon and Spc. Kenneth Wright, all with HHC, TF Viper, participating in the evaluation, resuscitation and stabilization of more than 100 wounded Soldiers, Coalition forces and local national civilians. They have a command of Advanced Trauma Life Support principles which has required them to spend countless hours training both in the formal setting and on their own.

Specialists Reed, Simon and Wright have also provided medical support flying more than 30 medevac and deliberate operations missions. These feats have all been accomplished while maintaining the medical operations of TF Viper, ensuring the care for more than 500 aviators and aviation support personnel doesn’t suffer.

“Providing both ground and air medical support takes a lot of training,” said Sgt. Lopez. “While the basics are the same, when taking care of a patient in the clinic or in the CSH we usually have all the medical supplies we need, and there are extra medics to help. When we’re in the air, a lot of times you have to take care of multiple patients by yourself and have limited supplies. Our training ensures we’re able to improvise when needed so that we can give the patient the best care possible. Making a difference in the life or death of a patient is both humbling and extremely rewarding. I love my job.”

TF ODIN-A faces unique challenges of flying in Afghanistan

1st Lt. Joseph Viverette
TF ODIN-A, 3rd CAB, TF Falcon

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Aviators from the 21st Cavalry Brigade, Task Force ODIN-A [Observe, Detect, Identify, Neutralize-Afghanistan], fly continuous operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The aviators of TF ODIN-A rely on training, experience, and technical expertise to safely fly in difficult weather conditions, including strong winds and low visibility. Few aviators would deny flying in Afghanistan presents unique challenges many other aviators do not get to experience.

Currently, the task force is in what is referred to as the “120 days of wind.” During this time between June and September wind speeds can rapidly increase, exceeding the limits of both the aviator and the aircraft. Even the most seasoned and experienced aviators are required to perform difficult crosswind landings (wind that blows the aircraft to the left or right of the runway centerline) throughout these summer months. Crosswinds can become so intense that they exceed an aircraft’s crosswind limit, which can cause structural damage to the aircraft or risk injury to the crew. These four months are also accompanied by scorching hot days, with little relief at night.

“Flying during the 120 days of wind forces aviators to improve upon their stick and rudder crosswind landing capabilities,” said Chief Warrant Officer

Michael Knecht, deputy aviation safety and standards officer with the 21st Cavalry Brigade, TF ODIN-A. “Risk assessments go to moderate due to the increased winds and aviators get weather updates in flight from the staff weather observer.”

Dust, haze, smoke, and even thunderstorms are all things aviators must be able to circumnavigate or adapt to and overcome. Many times aviators have taken off in low visibility due to dust and haze, knowing when they return they will have to complete an instrument approach. On an instrument approach a pilot must fly to specific points over the ground at precise altitudes and airspeeds while descending toward the ground. Instrument approach procedures are designed to navigate an aircraft and crew to a set distance from the runway, on course to land after breaking out from cloud cover or low visibility conditions. The weather can deteriorate to such an extent that aviators are not allowed to take off because the risk is too great.

“Poor weather conditions and congested airspace make it difficult to obtain airspace clearances for our reconnaissance surveillance and target acquisition platforms, that need specific airspace and altitudes to accomplish the mission,” said Capt. Ronson Honeychurch, a battle captain with TF ODIN-A, from Kaneohe, Hawaii.

Due to the local terrain and the few numbers of adequate aviation facilities, radio communications can at times be of low quality. Many times,



1st Lt. Joseph Viverette

Chief Warrant Officer John Lill, a standardization pilot with Company B, 21st Cavalry Brigade, TF ODIN-A, 3rd CAB, TF Falcon, conducts a preflight inspection at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, July 29.

aircrews will hear, “Aircraft calling, you are broken and unreadable,” meaning the tower where they are trying to land or take off, cannot fully understand them.

“A unique challenge in this country is the lack of infrastructure. The controlling agencies have trouble determining your location at times due to the lack of adequate radar coverage,” said Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Grant, battalion aviation maintenance officer, TF ODIN-A.

Despite the difficult terrain, weath-

er and communication challenges, the flight crews of TF ODIN-A said they are still able to accomplish the missions set before them.

“Good crew coordination between the pilot and the mission operators is why we are successful at what we do,” said Capt. Williams Biggers, a supply officer with TF ODIN-A. “It is teamwork that allows us to overcome the challenges we face on a day to day basis while operating in Afghanistan. Each crew member plays an integral part in our success.”

810th Engineers return



Photos by Spc. Michael Adams

A Soldier with the 810th Engineer Company, based out of Swainsboro, Ga., greets his Family during a welcome home ceremony at Cottrell Field, Sept. 16.

Spc. Michael Adams
3rd ID Public Affairs

Families, friends and grateful volunteers welcomed home the 810th Engineer Company, a Georgia National Guard unit based out of Swainsboro, Ga., with banners, smiles and tears of joy after a year-long deployment in Afghanistan, during a ceremony at Cottrell Field, Sept. 16.

"The 810th Engineer Company was in Afghanistan for one reason: We were there to remove improvised explosive devices off the roads," said Capt. Shane Clemens, commander of the 810th Eng. Co. "We did our jobs – we helped civilians, we helped the coalition forces. We were there for a purpose. Our guys [were] amazing."

Captain Clemens added he and his Soldiers were happy to be home.

"It feels great; everyone is excited," he said. "It's been a long year, a tough year in Afghanistan, a lot of enemy contact. Our guys have seen a lot. They've worked hard, and they're ready to be here."

Families and friends hollered, screamed and held up signs to welcome their combat veterans home as their Soldiers marched across the field.

Corporal Daniel Suggs, a medic with the 810th Eng. Co., was one of the Soldiers who reunited with his loved ones at the

ceremony.

"It feels great; it feels wonderful to be with my Family," he said, adding there were no words to describe how much he missed them.

Corporal Suggs' mother, Catherine, added that she was very happy her son returned home safely, though she wanted to remember those who lost loved ones during the deployment.

"I feel for the Families of the two fallen Soldiers and the ones that were injured," she said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with them as well."

The 810th Eng. Co. lost two Soldiers during their tour: Sgt. 1st Class Edgar Roberts, a platoon sergeant with the unit, and Sgt. David Holmes, a gunner. The two Soldiers died of wounds sustained when their RG-31 mine-protected, armored personnel carrier hit an improvised explosive device, June 26.

While the two Soldiers did not return with their unit, they will not be forgotten.

"They were in vital positions for those route clearance patrols," Capt. Clemens said. "Sergeant First Class Roberts was the hardest worker I've ever met. He did his job well. He maintained his professionalism above all other noncommissioned officers I've seen. He truly lived up to the NCO creed. Sergeant David Holmes was an excellent gunner, a first-



A Soldier with the 810th Engineer Company hugs his wife and daughter at a welcome home ceremony at Fort Stewart's Cottrell Field, Sept. 16. The unit was deployed to Afghanistan for a year.

class guy all the way. He was just an amazing person. He was very professional and did his job every day."

Colonel Andy Hall, the commander of the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, the parent unit of the 810th Eng. Co., appreciated their service in Afghanistan and felt they did an excellent

job during their deployment.

"Let me be the first here to welcome you back to the greatest nation in the world, the United States of America," he said to the backdrop of cheering Family Members. "We recognize your sacrifice. Thank you. You're true patriots as well, and may God bless each and every one of you."

3rd HBCT, people of GA bring shoes to Iraq

Spc. Erik Anderson,
3rd HBCT, 3rd ID Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE KALSU, Iraq – As Soldiers of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division prepared to leave the five provinces in southern Iraq they have been responsible for this deployment, there was still one last mission to complete.

In coordination with supporters at Brookstone School in Columbus, Ga., and supporters in Columbus, Phenix City, Ala., and Fort Benning, Ga., the Soldiers dropped off donated shoes to the children of Iraq.

“There is nothing better than seeing the look on a child’s face when you give them something they need,” said 1st Lt. Jonathan Roland, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment. “Even though we don’t speak the same language, you can see the excitement.”

The project, in coordination with the Babil Provincial Reconstruction Team, started with a modest goal.

“It is an idea based on the partnership between Brookstone School and two local Iraqi schools,” said Lt. Col. Jonathan Boston, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd HBCT. “When we started, Cindy Sparks (of the Brookstone School) estimated 50 to 70 pairs of shoes would be donated, but through the efforts of our supporters in the tri-city area and Brookstone School, nearly 1,000 pairs of shoes were donated.”

During this deployment 3rd HBCT executed an advise and assist mission, and worked closely with the Iraqi people.

“For the brigade, it is another example of our enduring partnership,” said Lt. Col. Boston. “This project takes it one step further; it shows the enduring partnership that exists between Americans and Iraqis.”

The partnership started by the 3rd HBCT will continue with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regt.

“The children of Iraq are the future,” said Lt. Col. Boston. “Our commitment begins with them.”



Photos by 1st Lt. Jonathan Roland, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment

Louella Simonetti, Babil Provincial Reconstruction Team, passes out shoes donated by Brookstone School, Columbus, Ga., Sept. 16. Nearly 1,000 pairs of shoes were collected by Brookstone and distributed throughout five provinces in southern Iraq.



Two Iraqi girls in Babil Province are all smiles after receiving shoes donated by Brookstone School, Columbus, Ga., Sept. 16. Nearly 1,000 pairs of shoes were collected by Brookstone and distributed throughout five provinces in southern Iraq.